

preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 378) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 378

Whereas Mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this preamble as "MPS") is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disorder that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to breakdown complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to those cells;

Whereas the cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disorder is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS disorders;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS disorders;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS disorders extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 25, 2006, as "National MPS Awareness Day"; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of "National MPS Awareness Day".

NASCAR-HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 379, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 379) recognizing the creation of the NASCAR-Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 379) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 379

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, while there are 1,300,000 automotive technicians currently employed, industry figures confirm that an additional 50,000 technicians are needed to fill open positions each year;

Whereas the National Automotive Dealers Association reports that 57 percent of the operating profit of automotive dealers is generated by the parts and service departments of automotive dealers;

Whereas the findings of the National Automotive Dealers Association reveal that dealers consider it difficult to locate qualified technicians;

Whereas 42 percent of all dealer technicians have been engaged in that line of work for less than 1 year;

Whereas the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. (referred to in this preamble as "NASCAR"), the NASCAR Universal Technical Institute, and a collaboration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (referred to in this preamble as "HBCUs") have agreed to create a consortium to increase the number of quality job opportunities available to African American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities, including automotive engineering and technology, automotive safety, sports marketing, and other automotive industry areas;

Whereas the NASCAR-HBCUs Consortium is establishing a formal plan to increase the number of quality job opportunities available to African American students within NASCAR in key racing and other related automotive business activities through the NASCAR Universal Training Institute and the NASCAR Diversity Internship Program;

Whereas NASCAR has agreed to enhance their identification of employment opportunities, including internships, full time jobs, entry level management positions, part-time jobs for college students, and post-graduate job placement for students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees at partner HBCUs;

Whereas the NASCAR-HBCUs Consortium has developed a program to increase the awareness, access, and participation of African American students in the NASCAR Universal Training Institute and NASCAR Diversity Internship Program for the racing and other related automotive industries; and

Whereas the NASCAR-HBCUs Consortium will seek opportunities to establish and enhance the funding of targeted job development activities by partner HBCUs, and generate support for the HBCUs in their efforts to enhance curriculum development in sports marketing, finance, human resource management, and other automotive industry areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. (referred to in this resolution as "NASCAR"), the NASCAR Universal Technical Institute, and a collaboration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (referred to in this resolution as "HBCUs"), for their creation of a consortium to increase the number of quality job opportunities available to African American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities;

(2) commends HBCUs, including Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Bethune Cookman College, Howard University, North Carolina A&T University, Talladega College, and Winston-Salem State University, for their efforts to increase the number of quality job opportunities available to African American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities; and

(3) encourages the Departments of Education and Labor and other appropriate agencies of the Federal Government to provide suitable assistance and support to ensure the success of that effort.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 380, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 380) celebrating Black History Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 380) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 380

Whereas the first African Americans were brought forcibly to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans were enslaved in the United States and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of basic, fundamental rights;

Whereas in spite of these injustices, African Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas in the face of these injustices, United States citizens of all races distinguished themselves in their commitment to the ideals on which the United States was founded, and fought for the rights of African Americans;

Whereas the greatness of the United States is reflected in the contributions of African Americans in all walks of life throughout the history of the United States, including through—

(1) the writings of Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Alex Haley;

(2) the music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Duke Ellington;

(3) the resolve of athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, and Muhammed Ali;

(4) the vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

(5) the bravery of those who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks;

Whereas the United States of America was conceived, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, as a new country dedicated to the proposition that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas United States citizens of all races demonstrate their commitment to that proposition through actions such as those of—

(1) Allan Pinkerton, Thomas Garrett, and the Rev. John Rankin, who served as conductors in the Underground Railroad;

(2) Harriet Beecher Stowe, who shined a light on the injustices of slavery;

(3) President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Senator Lyman Trumbull, who introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(4) President Lyndon B. Johnson, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Mike Mansfield, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who fought to end segregation and the denial of civil rights to African Americans; and

(5) Americans of all races who marched side-by-side with African Americans during the civil rights movement;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has been an imperfect work in making progress towards those noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of a people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach them but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure before recommitting themselves to trying again;

Whereas, from the beginning of our Nation, the most conspicuous and persistent failure of United States citizens to reach those noble goals has been the enslavement of African Americans and the resulting racism;

Whereas the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction;

Whereas the Federal Government failed to put an end to slavery until the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865, repeatedly failed to enact a Federal anti-lynching law, and still struggles to deal with the evils of racism; and

Whereas the fact that 61 percent of African American 4th graders read at a below basic level and only 16 percent of native born African Americans have earned a Bachelor's degree, 50 percent of all new HIV cases are reported in African Americans, and the leading cause of death for African American males ages 15 to 34 is homicide, demonstrates that the United States continues to struggle to reach the high ideal of equal opportunity for all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the tragedies of slavery, lynching, and segregation, and condemns them as an infringement on human liberty

and equal opportunity so that they will stand forever as a reminder of what can happen when the citizens of the United States fail to live up to their noble goals;

(2) honors those United States citizens who—

(A) risked their lives during the time of slavery, lynching, and segregation in the Underground Railroad and in other efforts to assist fugitive slaves and other African Americans who might have been targets and victims of lynch mobs; and

(B) those who have stood beside African Americans in the fight for equal opportunity that continues to this day;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principles of the United States of America that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness";

(4) commits itself to addressing those situations in which the African American community struggles with disparities in education, health care, and other areas where the Federal Government can help improve conditions for all citizens of the United States; and

(5) calls on the citizens of the United States to observe Black History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on S. Res. 380, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor, if I am not currently one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2320

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2320) to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XXIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m., Friday, February 17. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that Senator SALAZAR then be recognized to deliver George Washington's Farewell Address, as under the previous order. I further

ask that following the address, the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair, and that when the Senate reconvenes, there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, by a vote of 96 to 3, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to proceed to the PATRIOT Act Amendments Act. I am disappointed that the other side of the aisle has forced us to spend these extra days, several extra days to get on to this bill.

Under the agreement that was reached last night, I want to remind my colleagues that a cloture vote on the bill will occur at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, and then we will have a vote on final passage at 10 a.m., March 1.

Tomorrow we will be in session, but there will be no rollcall votes. We have some outstanding legislative items to complete before the Presidents Day recess next week, so we will be in session and working tomorrow, Friday.

In Senate tradition tomorrow, we will also hear Washington's Farewell Address which will be read by Senator SALAZAR when the Senate convenes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 17, 2006, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, February 16, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BERNADETTE MARY ALLEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

JANICE L. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

STEVEN ALAN BROWNING, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

PATRICIA NEWTON MOLLER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI.

JEANINE E. JACKSON, OF WYOMING, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO BURKINA FASO.

KRISTIE A. KENNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ROBERT WEISBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

JANET ANN SANDERSON, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI.

JAMES D. MCGEE, OF FLORIDA, TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNION OF COMOROS.

GARY A. GRAPPO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN.

PATRICIA A. BUTENIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

DONALD T. BLISS, OF MARYLAND, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.